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JANUARY 1977

Reserva

LIVESTOCK

SUPPLEMENT TO LMS-212

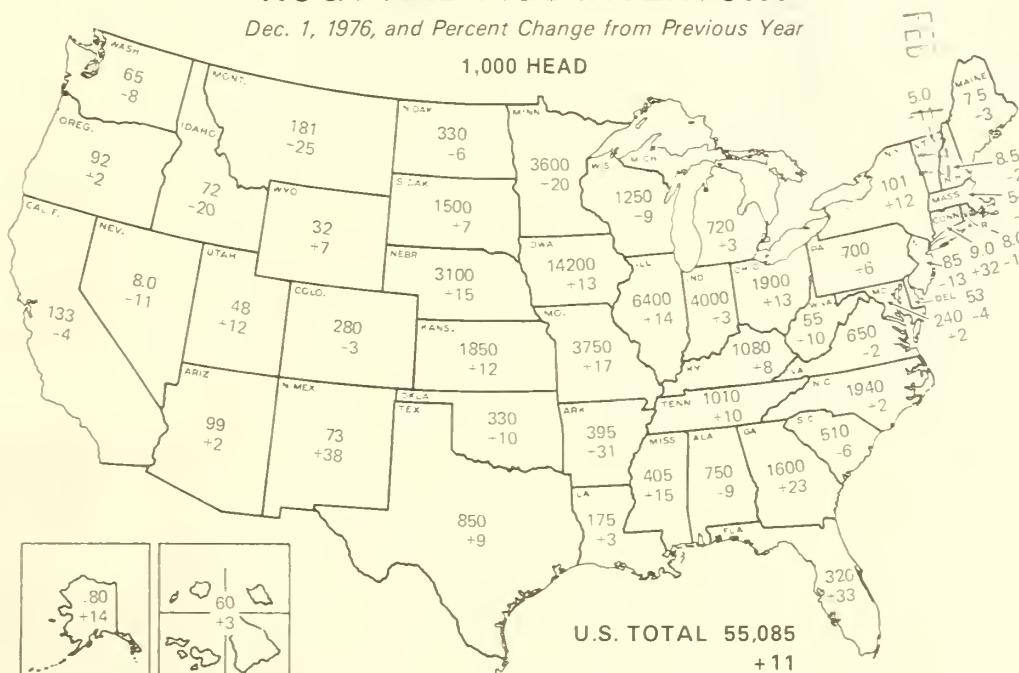
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation



HOGS AND PIGS INVENTORY

Dec. 1, 1976, and Percent Change from Previous Year

1,000 HEAD



LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

by Eldon Ball

The Crop Reporting Board has revised upward earlier published estimates of the December 1975-May 1976 pig crop. At the revised level of 42.2 million head, this pig crop was 19 percent larger than the previous year. Slaughter through 6 months ending with November was up one-fifth.

The June 1 breeding inventory at the revised level was 14 percent larger. A gain of 11 percent was reported earlier. The second half 1976 pig crop was reported up 18 percent. The yearending inventory of all hogs and pigs was increased 11 percent; 12 percent more market hogs and a 5-percent increase in the breeding herd.

Some analysts have flagged the 6 percentage point difference separating the reported increase in the pig crop and the inventory of market hogs as an inconsistency. But, if the rate of gain and average marketing age are considered, the discrepancy becomes less apparent. The June-November pig crop accounted for approximately 77 percent of the December 1, 1976, inventory of all hogs and pigs. In 1975, this pig crop accounted for only 72 percent of the total inventory. This means hogs gained faster and were marketed sooner on the average in 1976 than a year ago. Thus, fewer pigs farrowed prior to June 1 remained in the market hog inventory on December 1 of this year than in the previous year.

Cyclical Buildup in Supplies To Continue

The larger inventory of market hogs in all weight groups assures a continued increase in hog slaughter through the first half of 1977. The inventory of heavy hogs weighing 180 pounds and over should account for December slaughter. The middle weight groups will move to slaughter largely during the winter quarter. This in-

Hogs on farms, Dec. 1, farrowings, and pig crops

Item	1974	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1976/ 1975
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent change
Inventory:	55,062	49,602	55,085		+11
Breeding	7,416	7,634	8,039		+5
Market	47,646	41,968	47,046		+12
-60 lb.	17,818	16,307	18,764		+15
60-119 lb....	12,603	11,130	12,343		+11
120-179 lb..	9,764	8,118	8,942		+10
180-219 lb..	5,790	4,880	5,302		+9
220 lb. + ...	1,672	1,533	1,695		+11
Sows farrowing:					
Dec.-May	6,372	4,969	5,797	6,109	+17
June-Nov. ...	5,466	4,964	5,867	(+5)	+18
Pig crops:					
Dec.-May	45,075	35,534	42,228	44,290	+19
June-Nov. ...	38,879	35,803	42,354	(+5)	+18
Pigs Per Litter:					
Dec.-May	7.07	7.15	7.29	7.25	+2
June-Nov. ...	7.11	7.21	7.22	(-1)	0
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	
VALUE:					
Per head	45.10	80.30	47.00		-41
Total (mil dol)	2,482	3,985	2,590		-35

¹ Intentions.

ventory classification largely accounts for the summer quarter pig crop. The inventory pool of market hogs exceeds 21 million head. Slaughter through the first 3 months of 1977 will approximate that number. This would be an increase of about 20 percent. Weekly slaughter under Federal inspection will average between 1.5 and 1.6 million head.

The year-to-year increase in pork production this spring may equal that of the winter quarter. These slaughter hogs will be drawn primarily from the December 1 inventory of market hogs weighing under 60 pounds. A 15-percent increase in this weight group was reported. A similar increase in the fall quarter pig crop was observed. Weekly slaughter under Federal inspection may average near 1.5 million head. The commercial kill for the April-June period would then total about 20 million head.

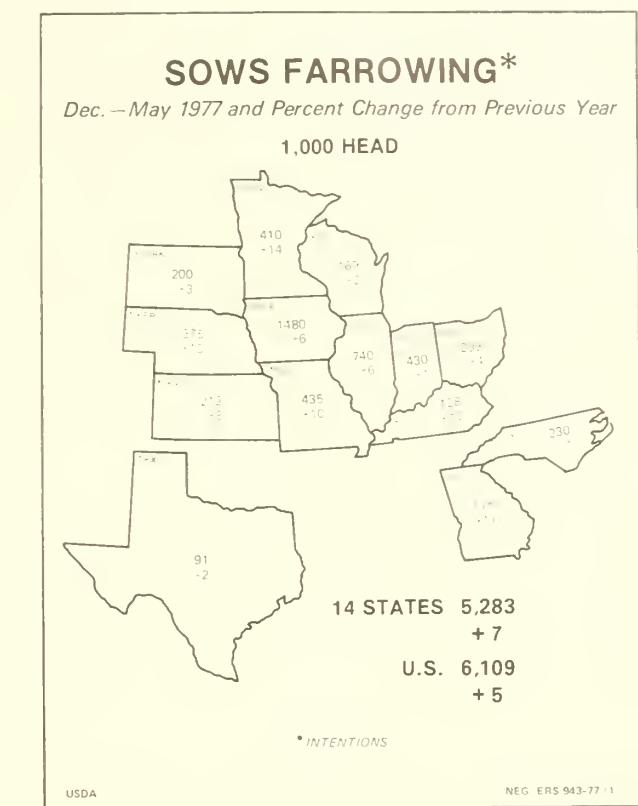
Recent Price Increase Likely Temporary

With beef output record large last fall, the seasonal and cyclical expansion in pork supplies was burdensome and hog prices dropped rapidly. Pork was promoted extensively at retail, and even with the increased slaughter, little pork went into storage.

Hog slaughter declined seasonally during December. With the modest reduction in supply coinciding with seasonal demand for Christmas hams, the market reacted with a sharp increase in price. Curtailed marketings due to severe weather have held prices in the upper-\$30 range. This price will likely be temporary, however.

Total red meat supplies during the first quarter of 1977 may be up 2 to 3 percent over last year, while the seasonal reduction from the record output last fall may be limited to less than 5 percent. The quarter-to-quarter reduction in the total meat supply this spring will be small. Given the supply conditions, hog prices may average in the mid-\$30 range during the first half of the year.

Slaughter may peak during March or April. Also, the recent increase in placements of cattle on feed may reflect trade reports of increased placements of heavy yearling cattle. If so, these heavy feeders could begin to move to slaughter in late winter after a 3 to 4 month feeding period. The likely result would be to hold fed

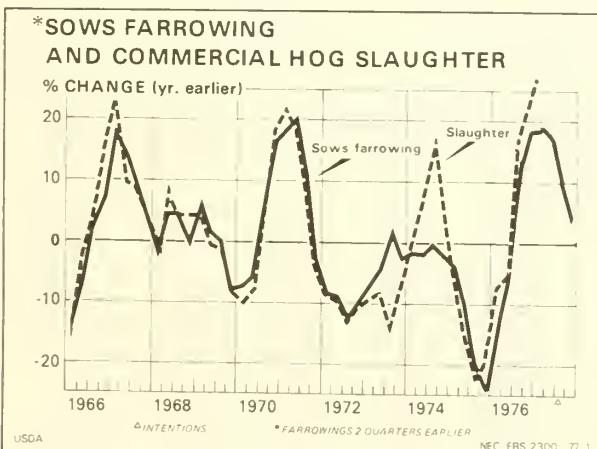


cattle prices below \$40. Under these conditions, hog prices could slip to around \$30 per hundredweight for the season low.

A seasonally reduced pork supply this spring should strengthen hog prices. But with feedlot placements of cattle expected to continue above year-earlier levels through the winter, fed beef output will remain large. Broiler production will continue at a record pace through the first half of 1977. Still, the hog market could advance to around \$40 by early summer.

Rate of Increase in Production To Slow

Farrowing intentions as of December 1 point to continued year-to-year gains in pork production through the summer quarter of this year. With producers planning a 10-percent increase in the December-February pig crop, the earlier summer supply forecast appears in line. Slaughter may total around 19½ million head, an in-



crease of less than 10 percent from a year earlier.

The first indication of farrowings for March-May points to a 4-percent increase in that pig crop. But higher hog prices following the survey completion date could result in a somewhat larger buildup than indicated. Sows bred as late as January will farrow during the spring quarter with this pig crop moving to slaughter during the fall. While year-to-year increases in pig crop numbers through the spring quarter seem assured, pork output during October-December should approach the year-earlier level.

If gains in output taper off as expected, market hog prices during the summer should improve seasonally but hold well below the 1976 third quarter average of \$44. If the summer-to-fall gain in pork output is limited to 10 to 12 percent, seasonally stronger

demand during the fourth quarter could hold prices near the summer average.

Pork Consumption To Increase a Tenth or More

Per capita supply of pork in 1976 was about 58 pounds, 3 pounds above last year, but the second lowest per person total since 1939. Supplies in 1977 are likely to increase 12 percent to about 65 pounds per person.

Retail prices will depend primarily on the supply of pork and competing meats, the level of unemployment, and growth in consumers' incomes. With the economic recovery expected to continue in 1977, though at a more moderate rate, the price reduction may be limited to perhaps 5 percent from the 1976 average of \$1.35 per pound. Year-to-year changes will be greatest during the winter quarter with reductions in excess of 10 percent. By the fall of 1977, retail pork prices will likely exceed the year-earlier level.

Fall pig crop and hog slaughter

	June-Nov. pig crop	Jan.-June Commercial slaughter	Percent of pig crop slaughtered			
				Thou. head	Thou. head	Percent
1963/64 ..	43,307	41,975	96.9			
1964/65 ..	39,862	38,368	96.3			
1965/66 ..	36,415	34,998	96.1			
1966/67 ..	42,132	40,558	96.3			
1967/68 ..	43,551	41,833	96.1			
1968/69 ..	45,078	42,653	94.6			
1969/70 ..	42,155	39,927	94.7			
1970/71 ..	49,629	47,865	96.4			
1971/72 ..	45,923	43,650	95.1			
1972/73 ..	43,174	39,703	92.0			
1973/74 ..	42,004	41,164	98.0			
1974/75 ..	38,879	36,567	94.1			
1975/76 ..	35,803	34,251	95.7			
1976/77 ..	42,354	¹ 41,000	96.8			

¹ Forecast.

Spring pig crop and hog slaughter

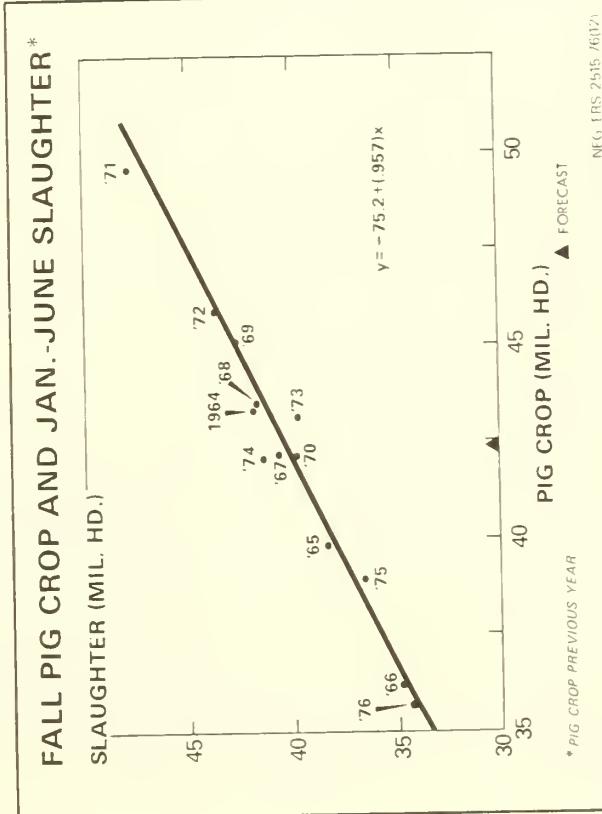
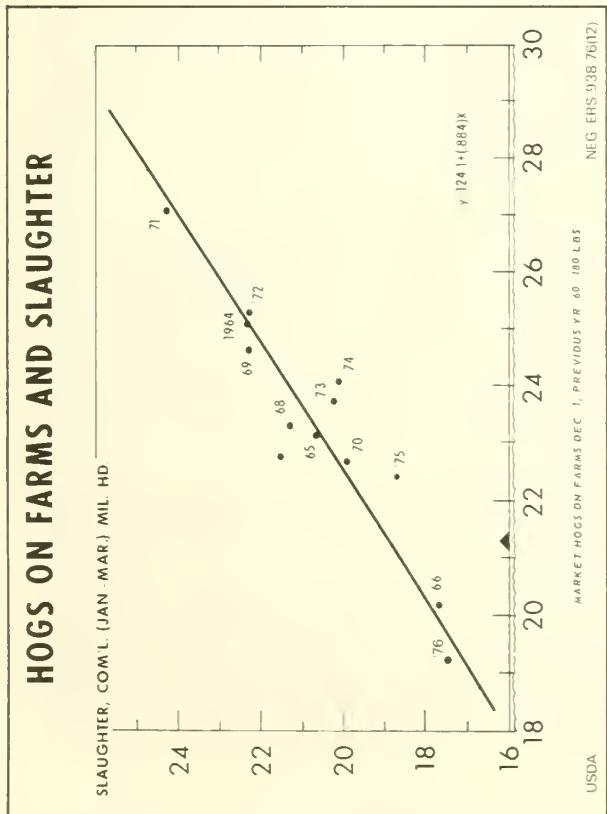
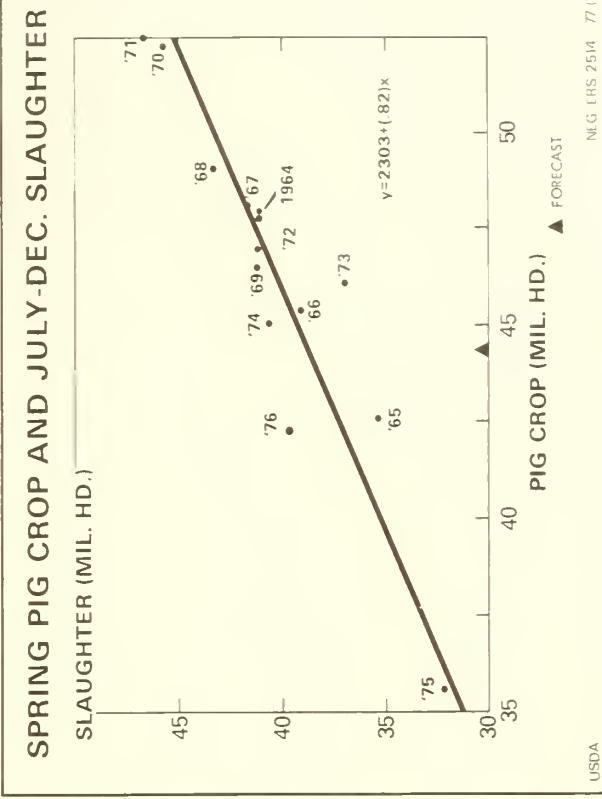
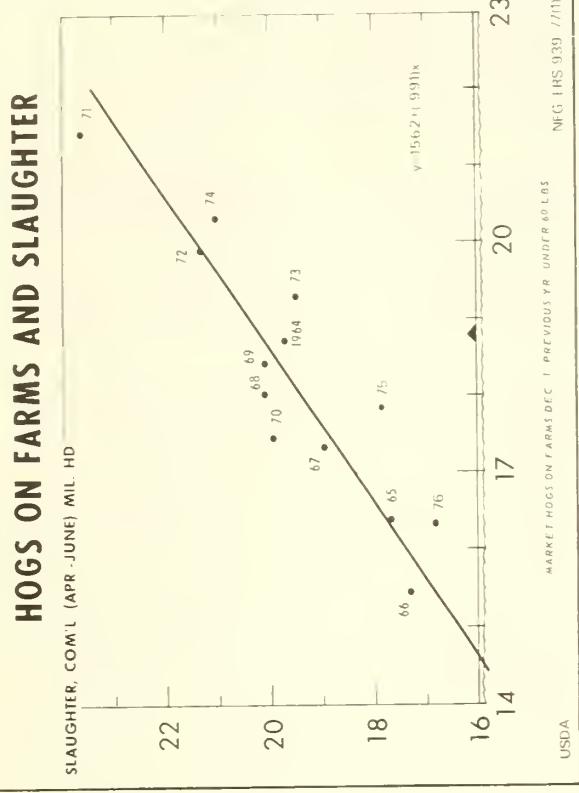
	Dec.-May ¹ pig crop	July-Dec. Commercial slaughter	Percent of pig crop slaughtered			
				Thou. head	Thou. head	Percent
1964		47,682	86.1	41,043		
1965		42,526	83.3	35,416		
1966		45,471	85.8	39,013		
1967		48,117	86.4	41,566		
1968		49,077	88.3	43,327		
1969		46,521	88.5	41,186		
1970		52,292	87.8	45,890		
1971		52,589	88.6	46,573		
1972		47,654	86.2	41,057		
1973		46,195	80.3	37,092		
1974		45,075	90.1	40,598		
1975		35,534	90.4	32,119		
1976		42,228	93.5	39,500		
1977 ²		44,290	93.7	41,500		

¹ December, previous year. ² Forecast.

Hogs and Pigs Balance Sheet

Year	Dec. 1 inventory ¹	Dec.-May pig crop ¹	Total supply	Commer- cial slaughter Dec.-May	Other disap- pearance ²	June 1 inventory	June-Nov. pig crop	Total supply	Commer- cial slaughter June-Nov.	Other disap- pearance ²	1,000 hd.	
1964	62,061	47,682	109,743	43,776	6,190	59,777	39,862	99,639	39,285	4,248		
1965	56,106	42,526	98,632	40,579	5,085	52,968	36,415	89,383	35,081	3,783		
1966	50,519	45,471	95,990	35,331	4,462	56,197	42,132	98,329	37,238	3,966		
1967	57,125	48,117	105,242	41,803	4,073	59,366	43,551	102,917	40,381	3,718		
1968	58,818	49,077	107,895	43,093	4,271	60,531	45,078	105,609	41,652	3,128		
1969	60,829	46,521	107,350	44,015	4,608	58,727	42,155	100,882	40,287	3,549		
1970	57,046	52,292	109,338	40,749	3,780	64,809	49,629	114,438	43,326	3,679		
1971	67,433	52,589	120,022	49,087	5,074	65,861	45,923	111,784	45,908	3,369		
1972	62,507	47,654	110,161	45,108	4,336	60,717	43,174	103,891	41,203	3,508		
1973	59,180	46,195	105,375	40,292	5,112	59,971	42,004	101,975	36,878	3,991		
1974	61,106	45,075	106,181	41,183	5,561	59,437	38,879	98,316	40,194	3,060		
1975	55,062	35,534	90,596	37,854	4,577	48,165	35,803	83,968	31,666	2,700		
1976	49,602	42,228	91,830	34,689	3,091	54,050	42,354	96,404	38,053	3,266		
1977	55,085	³ 44,290	99,375	41,500	3,350	54,525						

¹ December previous year. ² Includes imports, exports, death loss, farm slaughter, etc. ³ Forecast.



* PIG CROP PREVIOUS YEAR

USDA

Selected marketings, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1976										
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
FEDERALLY INSPECTED:												
Slaughter:												
Cattle	1,000 head	3,403	3,032	3,492	3,053	2,980	3,294	3,220	3,388	3,435	3,336	3,154
Steers	1,000 head	1,350	1,306	1,612	1,370	1,376	1,539	1,527	1,574	1,521	1,435	1,299
Heifers	1,000 head	969	899	4,074	911	848	909	869	944	964	965	874
Cows	1,000 head	1,009	760	731	697	680	761	748	790	868	863	905
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	75	67	75	75	76	85	76	80	82	73	76
Calves	1,000 head	369	327	415	353	304	340	346	373	408	394	387
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	582	513	570	561	429	502	526	563	621	556	517
Hogs	1,000 head	5,400	4,873	6,325	5,827	5,086	5,146	4,907	5,968	6,363	6,929	7,111
Percentage sows	Percent	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	6
Average live weight per head												
Cattle	Pounds	1,020	1,026	1,034	1,031	1,035	1,030	1,026	1,026	1,029	1,032	1,036
Calves	Pounds	232	215	204	206	227	225	227	226	222	230	227
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	110	111	112	110s	107	105	104	106	108	111	112
Hogs	Pounds	243	236	236	236	239	240	238	236	236	238	243
Average dressed weight												
Beef	Pounds	597	598	616	610	616	612	613	615	614	611	610
Veal	Pounds	130	123	116	117	129	129	131	129	128	131	130
Lamb and mutton	Pounds	56	56	56	54	52	51	52	53	54	55	56
Pork	Pounds	168	167	166	166	166	167	166	165	164	165	169
Lard	Pounds	16	13	14	14	15	14	15	14	14	14	15
Production:												
Beef	Mil. lb.	2,024	1,808	2,145	1,857	1,829	2,010	1,969	2,076	2,104	2,031	1,918
Veal	Mil. lb.	48	40	48	41	39	44	45	48	52	51	50
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	32	28	32	30	22	26	27	29	33	31	29
Pork	Mil. lb.	906	811	1,049	963	842	860	814	982	1,042	1,143	1,199
Lard	Mil. lb.	84	64	87	82	78	74	72	84	88	101	105
COMMERCIAL:												
Slaughter: ¹												
Cattle	1,000 head	3,762	3,336	3,813	3,354	3,238	3,576	3,483	3,675	3,749	3,658	3,491
Calves	1,000 head	466	408	496	419	367	410	410	443	495	480	466
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	601	528	587	590	448	524	547	585	646	574	538
Hogs	1,000 head	5,698	5,122	6,612	6,087	5,331	5,400	5,132	6,214	6,638	7,211	7,456
Production:												
Beef	Mil. lb.	2,207	1,966	2,318	2,017	1,966	2,161	2,110	2,233	2,274	2,202	2,096
Veal	Mil. lb.	73	62	71	59	56	63	62	67	75	75	72
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	33	29	33	32	23	27	28	30	34	31	30
Pork	Mil. lb.	953	850	1,092	1,003	879	899	848	1,020	1,084	1,188	1,255
Lard	Mil. lb.	87	67	90	85	80	76	74	87	91	103	108
COLD STORAGE STOCKS												
FIRST OF MONTH:												
Beef	Mil. lb.	350	350	362	395	401	408	407	394	373	394	414
Veal	Mil. lb.	11	11	10	9	10	8	8	8	8	9	9
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	12	11	11	9	10	11	12	14	15	17	16
Pork	Mil. lb.	249	236	222	248	267	270	236	195	170	189	216
Total meat and meat products ²	Mil. lb.	675	672	677	727	752	765	727	675	620	663	711
FOREIGN TRADE:												
Imports: (carcass weight)												
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	182	121	189	171	186	202	165	167	203	190	141
Pork	Mil. lb.	48	30	38	36	35	37	39	27	28	33	34
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	2	3	2	2	4	7	4	4	3	1	2
Exports: (carcass weight)												
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	7.21	7.42	8.09	7.00	7.13	8.47	7.71	6.85	7.77	8.55	7.23
Pork	Mil. lb.	17.06	26.43	38.30	22.00	36.57	23.47	19.92	22.48	25.64	32.54	26.07
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	.24	.29	.38	.39	.31	.38	.34	.31	.56	.55	.40
Live animal imports:												
Cattle	Number	90,507	52,135	69,417	78,492	99,061	79,168	29,295	23,893	29,670	34,855	138,035
Hogs	Number	2,221	1,911	3,776	4,637	4,927	5,090	5,120	5,238	4,277	2,766	2,730
Sheep and lambs	Number	932	153	91	0	6	50	104	33	67s	1,569	1,129
Live animal exports:												
Cattle	Number	12,263	13,356	33,859	12,643	17,990	14,982	18,162	23,127	21,378	16,966	12,401
Hogs	Number	306	517	1,477	1,174	904	334	395	293	1,072	532	1,715
Sheep and lambs	Number	13,346	6,805	19,409	26,640	33,257	26,891	23,481	21,363	19,538	16,899	16,567

¹ Federally inspected and other commercial. ² Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	1976									
	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.		
<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>										
SLAUGHTER STEERS:										
Omaha:										
Choice, 900-1100 lb.....	36.14	43.12	40.62	40.52	37.92	37.02	36.97	37.88	39.15	
Good, 900-1100 lb.....	33.77	39.78	38.26	37.88	34.72	33.52	33.28	34.10	35.12	
California, Choice 900-1100 lb.	37.75	45.69	41.94	42.92	39.25	39.31	38.75	39.00	40.62	41.40
Colorado, Choice 900-1100 lb.	35.35	44.74	40.97	41.40	37.84	37.22	37.34	38.42	39.26	39.98
Texas, Choice 900-1100 lb.	35.88	45.10	41.49	41.57	37.91	37.54	37.46	38.40	40.10	41.10
Cows:										
Omaha:										
Commercial	28.31	30.86	30.69	27.98	26.59	25.55	24.46	23.34	21.34	22.39
Utility	27.45	30.72	30.24	27.47	25.80	25.10	22.90	22.72	20.59	21.62
Cutter	25.09	27.58	27.60	24.93	23.82	22.75	20.90	20.40	19.00	20.18
Canner	21.80	24.31	24.95	22.76	22.18	20.89	18.62	18.01	16.96	18.88
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	50.58	49.49	44.95	37.60	34.51	41.52	39.84	47.25	44.90	49.58
FEEDER STEERS:										
Kansas City:										
Choice, 400-500 lb.....	44.01	47.01	47.58	44.81	40.64	41.13	38.18	39.81	38.46	38.22
Choice, 600-700 lb.....	39.69	44.62	44.21	42.83	39.18	38.94	36.18	36.72	36.26	36.23
Good, 600-700 lb.....	36.28	40.81	41.05	38.39	35.26	35.14	31.75	31.39	30.65	30.47
All weights and grades.....	38.82	43.49	42.38	40.24	37.58	37.55	34.03	36.07	35.07	34.75
Amarillo:										
Choice, 600-700 lb.....	39.24	44.29	42.25	41.37	39.04	38.50	34.81	35.04	34.69	35.87
Good, 600-700 lb.....	31.16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia Auctions:										
Choice, 600-700 lb.....	36.15	39.75	38.75	37.70	35.00	33.44	32.30	31.81	30.69	32.42
Good, 400-500 lb.....	32.90	36.75	35.50	34.90	31.50	30.75	29.70	31.00	28.62	30.17
SLAUGHTER HOGS:										
Barrows and Gilts:										
Omaha:										
Nos. 1 & 2, 200-220 lb.....	47.23	48.87	49.78	51.93	48.92	44.59	40.14	33.12	33.00	39.17
Nos. 1 & 2, 220-240 lb.....	47.23	48.86	49.78	51.91	48.96	44.64	40.16	33.10	32.79	39.03
All weights	46.40	47.48	48.50	50.32	47.66	43.64	39.06	32.34	31.19	37.47
Sioux City	46.50	48.06	48.96	50.91	48.31	44.03	39.39	32.69	31.96	38.28
7 markets	46.71	47.89	48.39	50.80	48.26	44.00	39.39	32.66	32.05	38.05
Sows:										
7 markets ¹	42.24	42.88	43.20	43.21	40.83	37.98	33.81	26.87	23.64	28.30
FEEDER PIGS:										
Nos. 1 & 2, So. Mo., 40-50 lb. (per hd.)	48.80	51.28	44.57	38.85	30.45	31.02	27.69	21.75	21.17	24.40
SHEEP AND LAMBS:										
Slaughter:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	56.25	62.95	62.12	50.81	47.81	40.62	42.88	45.56	45.50	47.69
Lambs, Choice, So. St. Paul	50.92	55.77	64.75	50.01	46.02	38.64	39.77	41.08	42.27	46.32
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	18.90	18.44	19.75	17.56	19.44	17.69	15.90	16.12	—	16.88
Ewes, Good, So. St. Paul	12.81	13.42	13.12	13.65	13.88	13.61	12.46	9.80	9.45	10.45
Feeder Lambs:										
Choice, San Angelo	56.30	62.71	59.56	48.56	49.38	45.94	46.65	47.31	49.57	51.19
Choice, So. St. Paul	50.21	52.39	53.72	45.80	44.14	38.98	43.50	44.61	43.56	51.91
FARM PRICES:										
Beef cattle:										
Calves	33.60	37.90	36.90	36.30	33.50	32.80	32.40	31.80	31.10	32.10
Hogs	35.30	38.00	38.80	37.90	35.20	34.50	33.10	32.20	32.90	32.90
Sheep	45.50	47.00	47.50	49.10	47.70	42.60	39.70	32.90	31.10	36.30
Lambs	13.40	15.00	14.50	12.60	13.00	12.50	12.40	11.40	11.00	12.30
49.70	54.60	60.30	51.00	46.90	41.40	41.80	42.70	41.60	44.60	
MEAT PRICES:										
Wholesale:										
Midwest Markets: ²										
Steer beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.....	56.97	65.85	63.56	62.45	58.20	57.05	57.24	58.36	60.85	62.51
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 lb.....	56.01	64.44	62.89	61.68	57.66	55.82	56.25	57.37	59.17	60.72
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	56.44	60.48	59.12	54.88	53.48	51.62	47.75	46.44	43.84	47.60
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	85.25	87.60	94.67	97.88	97.40	85.26	83.43	72.55	66.83	73.37
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	67.48	73.62	73.04	79.16	74.10	73.58	63.61	47.94	42.58	45.71
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	85.48	84.19	82.86	81.76	77.32	74.66	72.18	69.67	80.59	84.56
East Coast:										
Steer beef, Choice 600-700 lb.....	60.04	69.28	66.72	65.61	61.18	60.60	60.95	61.87	64.46	66.25
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 35-45 lb.....	107.57	120.69	126.81	108.62	100.67	87.90	88.88	92.98	93.25	97.35
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 55-65 lb.	104.39	121.00	125.69	106.05	99.25	86.81	87.13	89.23	86.12	90.55
West Coast:										
Steer Beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	61.33	72.08	67.42	67.92	62.96	62.12	62.32	62.36	65.56	67.72
Retail:										
Beef, Choice	135.1	142.0	141.7	140.8	138.2	135.8	134.3	133.5	135.7	
Veal	173.2	171.5	173.6	176.8	174.4	174.9	172.4	169.7	169.4	
Pork	138.7	136.6	138.6	140.4	142.1	137.4	132.7	124.8	117.5	
Lamb	181.4	183.4	188.2	193.1	192.4	189.8	184.0	183.0	181.5	
Price Indexes (BLS, 1967=100)										
Wholesale meat	171.7	183.5	182.8	182.0	175.3	164.7	166.2	158.8	159.0	
Retail meat	179.6	176.6	180.5	181.6	182.9	180.1	177.4	172.7	169.7	
Beef and veal	164.7	160.8	166.9	166.5	166.9	163.3	162.3	158.7	159.4	
Pork	204.3	200.0	201.9	205.0	208.7	206.0	200.7	191.7	182.4	
Other meats	177.7	178.4	180.2	181.9	181.9	181.0	178.0	176.7	174.5	
LIVESTOCK-FEED RATIOS, OMAHA³										
Beef steer-corn	13.8	16.6	14.8	14.2	13.4	13.8	14.3	16.1	18.0	17.4
Hog-corn	17.7	18.3	17.7	17.6	16.8	16.2	15.1	13.7	14.4	16.4

¹ St. Louis N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis. ² Prior to Oct., 1975, Chicago Market. ³ Bushels of No. 2 Yellow Corn equivalent in value of 100 pounds liveweight.

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